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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a mobile communications device for
activating a selected profile, method comprising:
detecting an external control signal transmitted
from a transmitter in a location;
activating the selected profile, wherein the
10 selected profile implements a policy of mobile
communications device usage for the location and replaces
a current profile for the mobile communications device;
and
maintaining the selected profile only while the
15 external control signal continues to be detected.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
restoring the current profile when reception of the
external control signal is discontinued.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the activating step
includes:
identifying settings for the mobile communications
devices using the external control signal to form
25 identified settings; and
activating the identified settings.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the external control
signal includes data identifying the identified settings.
- 30 5. A method in a mobile communications device for
activating a profile when the mobile communications

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device is located in a location with a policy for mobile communications device usage, the method comprising:

detecting an external control signal in the location;

5 identifying settings in the external control signal to form identified settings;

activating the profile with the identified settings to form an active profile; and

maintaining the active profile while the external
10 control signal is detected.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein a prior profile is deactivated when the profile is activated and further comprising:

15 restoring the prior profile when an absence of the external control signal is detected.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

displaying an icon indicating that the profile has
20 been activated, wherein the icon is displayed while the profile is active.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the location is a public establishment, a home, an office, or a government

25 building.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein the external control signal is broadcasted from a transmitter.

30 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the transmitter is programmed by a control unit to broadcast the external control signal.

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11. The method of claim 5, wherein the external control signal contains an encoded command that identifies settings for the mobile communications device.

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12. The method of claim 5, wherein the mobile communications device contains circuitry that decodes the external control signal.

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13. The method of claim 5, wherein the identified settings for the mobile communications device are attributes of a ringer, conversation mode, conversation duration, and informational messages.

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14. The method of claim 5, wherein the mobile communications device is one of a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant, a two way pager, or a laptop computer.

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15. The method of claim 5, wherein the external control signal is one of a radio frequency signal, an infrared signal, or an ultrasonic signal.

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16. The method of claim 5, wherein an emergency phone call is always allowed by the profile.

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17. A method in a data processing system for causing a mobile communications device to activate a profile for a location with a policy for mobile communication device usage, the method comprising:

selecting a control signal for broadcast by a transmitter, wherein the control signal selects settings

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in mobile communications devices receiving the control signal to implement a policy on usage within a location; and

5 sending information to the transmitter, wherein the transmitter broadcasts a control signal containing an encoded command.

18. A mobile communications device comprising:

 a bus system;

10 a communications unit connected to the bus system; a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

 a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of
15 instructions to detect an external control signal transmitted from a transmitter in a location; activate the selected profile, wherein the selected profile implements a policy of mobile communications device usage for the location and replaces a current profile for the
20 mobile communications device; and maintain the selected profile only while the external control signal continues to be detected.

19. A mobile communications device comprising:

25 a bus system;

 a communications unit connected to the bus system; a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

 a processing unit connected to the bus system,
30 wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to detect an external control signal in the location; identify settings in the external control

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signal to form identified settings; activate the profile with the identified settings to form an active profile; and maintain the active profile while the external control signal is detected.

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20. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system; a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory

10 includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to select a control signal for broadcast by a transmitter, wherein the control signal selects
15 settings in mobile communications devices receiving the control signal to implement a policy on usage within a location; and send information to the transmitter, wherein the transmitter broadcasts a control signal containing an encoded command.

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21. A mobile communications device for activating a selected profile, the mobile communications device comprising:

25 detecting an external control signal transmitted from a transmitter in a location;

activating the selected profile, wherein the selected profile implements a policy of mobile communications device usage for the location and replaces a current profile for the mobile communications device;

30 and

maintaining the selected profile only while the external control signal continues to be detected.

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22. A mobile communications device for activating a profile when the mobile communications device is located in a location with a policy for mobile communications device usage, the mobile communications device comprising:
- detecting means for detecting an external control signal in the location;
 - identifying means for identifying settings in the external control signal to form identified settings;
 - activating means for activating the profile with the identified settings to form an active profile; and
 - maintaining means for maintaining the active profile while the external control signal is detected.
23. A data processing system for causing a mobile communications device to activate a profile for a location with a policy for mobile communication device usage, the data processing system comprising:
- selecting means for selecting a control signal for broadcast by a transmitter, wherein the control signal selects settings in mobile communications devices receiving the control signal to implement a policy on usage within a location; and
 - sending means for sending information to the transmitter, wherein the transmitter broadcasts a control signal containing an encoded command.
24. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for activating a selected profile, the computer program product comprising:

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first instructions for detecting an external control signal transmitted from a transmitter in a location;

second instructions for activating the selected profile, wherein the selected profile implements a policy
5 of mobile communications device usage for the location and replaces a current profile for the mobile communications device; and

third instructions for maintaining the selected profile only while the external control signal continues
10 to be detected.

25. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for activating a profile when a mobile communications device is located in a location with a
15 policy for mobile communications device usage, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for detecting an external control signal in the location;

second instructions for identifying settings in the
20 external control signal to form identified settings;

third instructions for activating the profile with the identified settings to form an active profile; and
fourth instructions for maintaining the active profile while the external control signal is detected.

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26. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for causing a mobile communications device to activate a profile for a location with a policy for mobile communication device usage, the computer program
30 product comprising:

first instructions for selecting a control signal for broadcast by a transmitter, wherein the control

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signal selects settings in mobile communications devices receiving the control signal to implement a policy on usage within a location; and

- 5 second instructions for sending information to the transmitter, wherein the transmitter broadcasts a control signal containing an encoded command.

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